

November 29, 1978

VIPONT MINE

This is a brief statement of the existing ecology and condition of the creek which flows by the Vipont mine site. This information was supplied by the Division of Wildlife Resources.

The watershed of Birch Creek consists of a steep canyon moving into rolling hills. The creek drains an area of silt-loam soils and is vegetated with conifers, sage and grasses. The watershed is in fair condition.

The creek itself is approximately four miles in length and has a mid-summer flow of generally 2-3 cubic feet per second. It is a Class III stream which identifies it as a substantial fishery resource. This classification takes into account the fair to good condition of the stream bottom composition and the biological productivity of the stream. Game fish found in the stream include brook and brown trout.

Present management concerns by the Division of Wildlife Resources are 1) maintenance of the existing fishery of the creek by protecting the existing stream flows, the bottom composition and the stream-side vegetation and 2) periodic stocking with brook trout fingerlings.

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*Note: Potential testimony for January Board hearings, file.